

our gratitude for her legacy of work and her steadfast friendship—and wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. By increasing awareness of the prevalence of domestic violence, we hope that more victims come forward and make use of the services available to assist them.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice domestic violence is defined as, a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful, or harassing behavior. Partners may be married or not married, heterosexual or homosexual, separated or dating.

Domestic violence is one of the most common and yet least talked about crimes. Nearly one in three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. Approximately four million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner each year. Every fifteen seconds in the United States a woman is brutally battered by her partner and a woman is raped every six minutes. During the course of this speech, 15 women will be battered and another will be raped.

Children are also more likely to be abused in homes with domestic violence.

Violence is a learned behavior and children who are abused, or who witness domestic violence, are more likely to abuse their own partners or children, creating a cycle of violence that is difficult to break.

Domestic violence victims are not just those that have witnessed or been subjected to abuse. The impacts of abuse are felt by everyone in contact with the victim. It threatens the well-being of entire communities. Friends, family, co-workers, and communities are often called upon to help repair the lives shattered by domestic abuse.

I became active in the struggle against domestic violence long before I came to Washington. As a prosecutor in the Middlesex County DA's Office, I created priority prosecution policies to put the most violent domestic abusers behind bars. In my first term in Congress I became involved in this issue nationally as an original co-sponsor of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. I remain committed to preventing domestic violence and providing victims with the support that they need to this day. I was an active participant in strengthening VAWA with the passage of VAWA in 2000 and I was a co-sponsor of the Debbie Smith Act of 2003, which will improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases by using DNA evidence. This bill was included in the Justice for All Act of 2004 and became law on October 30, 2004.

Sadly, we are not making as much progress as we need to on this issue. In fact, since 1974 the rate of assaults against women aged 20–24 has increased almost 50 percent. We

can and should do much more. We must continue to reach out to victims and restrain abusers. We need to craft stronger legislation and to change existing legislation to ensure that the protections and services included in VAWA extend to all our citizens.

As we recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month let us renew our dedication to protecting our Nation's women, men and children from one of the greatest threats to the social fabric of America.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE GILLET ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE COLORADO SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Gillett on his induction into the Colorado Ski Museum's Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for 2005. Mr. Gillett's accomplishments have greatly impacted the ski community, and he deserves recognition for the many contributions that he has made.

When George Gillett bought Vail & Beaver Creek Resorts in 1985, a new era for the Colorado ski industry began. With his pioneering focus on customer service, Gillett redefined the skiing experience. He launched a massive installation of high-speed detachable chairlifts at Vail, kick-starting the growth that would make Vail America's number one ski destination.

Mr. Gillett also supported major alpine ski events at a time when most ski areas in America preferred not to host international races. Through his perseverance, Vail hosted the 1989 World Alpine Ski Championships, proving to the world that Colorado could successfully host major international ski championships. Due to his support, Vail later hosted the 1999 World Alpine Ski Championships. George Gillett is still active in the ski community, running Booth Creek Ski Holdings and managing resorts throughout North America. In 1999 Ski Magazine voted him one of the "100 Most Influential Skiers of All Time." His innovative thinking and passion for redefining the ski industry have left a lasting mark on Colorado skiing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. Gillett for contributing to his community and industry in far-reaching ways. We recognize his accomplishments in making Vail & Beaver Creek world class ski resorts. I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Mr. Gillett on his well deserved honor in entering the Colorado Ski Museum's Hall of Fame.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 397, the Protection of Lawful

Commerce in Arms Act. I believe this bill unfairly grants the gun industry immunity and takes away an individual's or state's ability to hold gun manufacturers, gun dealers, and gun trade associations accountable for negligence and product liability standards that apply to other industries. The bill perpetuates the gun industry's disregard for public safety and holds up their "see-no-evil, hear-no-evil, speak-no-evil" approach to gun manufacturing and distribution.

My opposition to S. 397 is an effort to crack down on negligent gun companies whose sole interest is making money even when it is at the expense of innocent lives and law enforcement. This bill would void a number of pending cases around the country which seek to hold the gun industry accountable for its actions. That includes cases brought against the gun industry by the City of Chicago and Cook County on behalf of victims of a shooting rampage a few years ago. That one tragic incident killed Ricky Byrdson and injured others in our community. Those cases charge that the gun industry causes a public nuisance by being negligent in gun sales practices, particularly by making them available to minors and others who are banned from owning guns. This bill takes us backwards and gives immunity to the very industry that has the power to regulate the manufacturing and distribution of its products. One death by a handgun is too many. But when 647 people are murdered by guns in one year in just one city, as was the case in Chicago in 2002, now is not the time to give immunity to the gun industry.

Although I oppose S. 397, I support an amendment that was added to this bill before it passed in the Senate. The amendment offered by Senator KOHL draws its provisions from the Child Safety Lock Act. It would prohibit the sale, delivery, or transfer by a licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer of a handgun to anyone who does not have a secure gun storage or safety device. Child-safety locks cost as little as \$10 and could save lives if sold with firearm. In fact, the Illinois House of Representatives passed a bill this year that will require gun dealers to sell child-safety locks with every handgun, to help prevent children from shooting themselves or others. This is important because our children possess the physical strength to accidentally fire a gun. According to the Illinois Council against Handgun Violence, 25 percent of 3- to 4-year-olds, 70 percent of 5- to 6-year-olds, and 90 percent of 7- to 8-year-olds can fire most handguns. The American Bar association believes that a locking device to prevent accidental firing should be a standard for the gun industry as seat belts are for the car industry. I support this amendment, and I hope it is enacted.

S. 397 would strip away the legal rights of gun violence victims, including law enforcement officers and their families, to seek redress against irresponsible gun dealers and manufacturers. That is why the American Trial Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, as well as law enforcement officers oppose this bill. As it is, guns are one of the few consumer products that are exempt from health and safety regulations. Therefore, litigation is the last opportunity for victims of firearm violence to hold the gun industry accountable when it acts negligently or recklessly. This bill would protect the gun industry at the expense of gun violence victims. We must not let the gun industry off the hook. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on S. 397.